

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 9-11 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-3 and 5-11 are pending, of which claims 1, 6, 7, and 8 are independent.

Claim 7 is objected to because of minor informalities.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chawla et al. (U.S. Patent 7,123,613) in view of Wiryaman et al (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0030970) and in further view of Tomkow (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0021963).

The above objections and rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS")

Subsequent to the mailing of the aforementioned Office Action, an IDS was filed on May 16, 2008. Acknowledgment of consideration of the reference(s) cited in such an IDS is respectfully requested in the next correspondence from the USPTO.

Drawings

The Office Action does not indicate whether the drawings of record are acceptable. Absent any further indication otherwise from the USPTO, it is assumed that the drawings of record are acceptable.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is noted with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claim 4 includes allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chawla et al. in view of Wiryaman et al and further in view of Tomkow.

Independent claims 1, 6, and 7 have been amended to include the subject matter recited in allowable claim 4 (now canceled).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-7 are allowable over the references of record as indicated in the Office Action.

Amended claim 8 and new claims 9-11 also include features previously found in allowable claim 4. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 8-11 are also allowable over the references of record as indicated in the Office Action.

PATENT

Atty Docket No.: 02-53303

App. Ser. No.: 10/826,768

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would assist in resolving any issues pertaining to the allowability of the above-identified application, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. Please grant any required extensions of time and charge any fees due in connection with this request to deposit account no. 50-4610.

Respectfully submitted,

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